

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05

DEAE-00 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 OES-03 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2447

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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USMISSION GENEVA

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SNAR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO CABINET DISCUSSES SOVIET/INDONESIAN

AID, PUBLICITY FOR 18 POINTS AND DRAFT

LAW ON DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS; DISAPPROVES

CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 6, GOVERNMENT (PGNU)
SPOKESMAN OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG ANNOUNCED THAT LAO CABINET
HELD THREE-HOUR MEETING FEBRUARY 5 UNDER JOINT CHAIR-
MANSHIP OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS PHOUMI VONGVICHIT
(PATHET LAO) AND LEUAM INSISIENGMAI (VIENTIANE SIDE),
ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

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A. DRAFT LAW ON DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS--OUDAY STATED THAT CABINET HAS REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED LAW FROM PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG.

B. PUBLICITY FOR 18 POINTS--THE CABINET DECIDED THAT IN EACH PGNU MINISTRY THE MINISTER OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE WILL DESIGNATE A COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE INTERNAL PUBLICITY ON THE 18 POINTS. JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL (JNPC) REPS WILL BE INVITED TO PUBLICIZE THE 18 POINTS TO DIRECTORS, CHEFS DE CABINET AND BUREAU CHIEFS, WHO IN TURN WILL EXPLAIN THEM TO THEIR SUBORDINATES. CABINET ALSO DECIDED THAT JNPC REPS WILL HOLD CONFERENCES THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM (INCLUDING PAKSE, SAM NEUA, ETC.) TO EXPLAIN THE 18 POINTS TO THE POPULATION.

C. NATIONAL NARCOTICS BUREAU--OUDAY STATED THAT THE CABINET HAD REJECTED A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CENTRALIZED NATIONAL NARCOTICS BUREAU. HE ADDED THAT THE EXISTING ORGANIZATION (GROUPE SPECIAL D'INVESTIGATION) WILL BE STUDIED CAREFULLY WITH THE AIM OF POSSIBLY ELIMINATING IT. CABINET ALSO DECIDED THAT NARCOTICS AID FURNISHED BY UNITED NATIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO PGNU FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE APPROPRIATE LAO MINISTRIES.

D. INDONESIAN AID--OUDAY SAID MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLAN SOTH PHETRASY REPORTED TO CABINET ON HIS DELEGATIMA'S RECENT TRIP TO INDONESIA. CONCERNING INDIRECT ASSISTANCE, GOI AGREED TO ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS WORLD BANK AND ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, TO GIVE LAOS LOANS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE INTEREST RATES. CONCERNING DIRECT ASSISTANCE, GOI OFFERED TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LAOSTO STUDY IN INDONESIA IN FIELDS SUCH AS ECONOMICS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY. GOI ALSO EXTENDED PGNU AN INTEREST-FREE \$1,000,000 LOAN TO BE PAID BACK OVER 30 YEARS WITH 10-YEAR GRACE PERIOD. HALF OF THIS AMOUNT WILL BE USED IMMEDIATELY TO SUPPORT THE KIP, ALTHOUGH THE GOI INDICATED THAT IT WILL NOT BECOME A MEMBER OF FEOF. THE REMAINING \$500,000 WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE VARIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDONESIAN COMMODITIES, SUCH AS TEXTILES. TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF THESE GOODS WILL BE PAID BY THE GOI.

E. SOVIET ASSISTANCE--OUDAY STATED THE CABINET CONSIDERED ANNOUNCEMENT BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR THAT USSR WILL PROVIDE FOLLOWING COMMODITY ASSISTANCE TO LAOS: 500 TONS OF FLOUR; 200 TONS OF NEWSPRINT; 520,000 METERS OF TEXTILES; 8000 TONS OF FUEL; 50,000 CONTAINERS OF

MILK; 30 TONS OF POWDERED MILK; 10 TONS OF POWDERED EGGS;
38,000 CANS OF MEAT; 136,000 TINS OF FISH. IN ADDITION,
THE SOVIETS WILL PROVIDE MEDICINES. TRANSPORTATION FOR
THESE GOODS WILL BE PAID FOR BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

F. QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD--OUDAY DECLINED
TO ANSWER A QUESTION ON WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY IS DISSOLVED AS A RESULT OF THE DELIBERATIONS
ON THIS SUBJECT NOW TAKING PLACE IN THE KING'S COUNCIL.
HE NOTED THAT DISSOLUTION CONSTITUTES A "VERY BIG QUESTION"
OF CONCERN TO THE PGNU AND VARIOUS LAO ORGANIZATIONS,
INCLUDING THE STUDENTS. HE ALSO SIDE-STEPPED A QUESTION
AS TO WHETHER USSR COMMODITIES WILL BE SHIPPED TO LAOS
VIA NORTH VIETNAM OR THAILAND.

2. COMMENT: DECISION TO DISAPPROVE CENTRAL NARCOTICS
BUREAU COMES AS NO SURPRISE, AS VARIOUS LAO MINISTRIES
INVOLVED HAVE LONG BEEN COOL TO PROPOSAL.
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